

JAPAN---STORY OF HER ANCIENT CIVILIZATION AND PROGRESS

By Masuji Miyakawa, Editor of the "Japan Tribune" and Special Commissioner of the Japanese Association of America.

During my seven years' sojourn in the pleasant land of America, it has been my good fortune to meet with many kind and sympathetic ladies and gentlemen. Sometimes when traveling, often at social gatherings or banquets, I have met many charming persons. When a conversation is started, I find that, as a rule all Occidentals always seem to express about the same idea—that Japan must be a wonderful country to be able to make such rapid progress in a short time.

This so-called "rapid progress" of Japan toward civilization is a current and prevailing expression among friends of Japan, whether they be American or European. I always experience a feeling of disappointment, nay, even of discouragement, when I hear it. It seems to show me the almost impossibility of making even our kindest Occidental friends understand the true state of affairs. To anyone who will think deeply enough about the matter, the progress of Japan, as a nation, is by no means unique. She is now keeping pace with any civilized country, as a nation, but she has taken longer to accomplish her civilization than any other. For over 2,500 years there has been one continuous, eager struggle for advancement, although Occidentals are prone to note only the last thirty-five years of Meiji.

Japan's Ancient Civilization.

The cause of this mistaken idea about Japan is that some persons do not take the trouble to consider that Japan did not start her civilization from a primitive stage, but had a civilization of her own which she has been practicing for over 2,500 years. She simply changed her methods. When Commodore Perry went to Japan in 1853, he did not find her like a baby—ignorant, helpless and at the mercy of everyone who came; but neither did he find her a society lady, willing and eager to introduce every new fashion to her large family and quite capable of judging what was best to choose for that purpose.

Instead of the phrase, "rapid progress of Japan," rather should we use the words, "transformation of Japanese civilization."

The history of Japanese civilization may be divided into three distinct periods. The first period may be considered as covering all those years that have elapsed since the founding and establishing the empire, down to the year 1853, when Commodore Perry re-established commercial relations with foreign nations, down to the year which witnessed the end of the China-Japan war.

Unknown to Occidentals.

The third period is the present period, commencing with the twentieth century. The events of the second and third periods are comparatively fairly known among the Occidental friends of Japan, but the history of the first period remains entirely unknown to most Occidentals, and yet it is really a most important period in the history of Japanese civilization, and is the one which should be most carefully studied and investigated by those who wish to have a true understanding concerning the advancement of Japan.

During the first period Japan grew as a nation from barbarism to manhood, encountering all the trials and tribulations of other young countries, until, gaining strength with growth, she overcame all obstacles to progress and gradually established a sound foundation for the civilization of her people. The history of this period should be studied profoundly and sincerely by those who wish to possess a knowledge of the true character of Japanese progress.

Unbroken Dynastic Line.

They should study how the laws were administered during these years, what literature was in existence, how arts were cultivated, and what sciences were understood. They should remember especially how the Imperial dynasty has continued in one unbroken line of descent from prehistoric times to the present day, which circumstance in itself forms the character of Japanese loyalty to the Emperor with love of country.

The second period should really be called the transformation period, the time when Japan made her civilization conform and harmonize with Occidental civilization, accomplishing her task sufficiently well to prove that she has a right to be considered one of the foremost nations of the world.

The third period begins with the unique performance of Japan in the late disturbance in China. Before the eyes of the whole Christian world Japan, a so-called heathen nation, set an example of humanity, loyalty, heroism, courage, and civility which has drawn the admiration of all the world.

The Japanese soldiers were reported as being the best disciplined and as showing a total absence of those revolting barbaric traits that led some Occidental troops to murder, loot, and rape. This is very easily accounted for. Religion and Patriotism Synonymous.

Each Japanese soldier has been taught reverence, and adores the Emperor from childhood. Almost the first thing he is taught to repeat is that his life belongs to the Emperor, very much in the same solemn manner that a Christian missionary will say that "My life belongs to God." Believing thus from his early childhood that his life belongs entirely to his Emperor, the Japanese soldier goes to the battlefield believing that in every action he represents his Emperor, and that anything which would bring disgrace upon him, the soldier, will also bring disgrace upon his Imperial Emperor. In fact, I might say religion and patriotism are one and the same thing in Japan.

The exemplary conduct of Japanese troops in the late trouble in China has indeed caused much surprise, and, as it seemed to me, even a conservation among Occidental nations. Christians who have become used to claiming a monopoly of all the virtues of humanity, view with wonder a display of characteristics in a people whom they have called heathen, which far exceed those shown by Christian soldiers.

During all the years that Japan was earnestly engaged in trying to advance the interests of her people, not one word of encouragement did she receive

from any sister nation. Of criticisms there was a plenitude, most unkind criticisms at that. The most lenient of her detractors called Japan an "imitator."

It may be interesting to note how the so-called foremost writers have discussed Japan. Such men as Chamberlain, Aston, Curzon, and Berosford, would naturally be expected to treat the subject from the most intelligent standpoint. We would be led to look for reliable information on the subject

Russia, Italy, and America are welcome to use all the modern equipments without being called an imitator. Why, then, should Japan be singled out as the one nation to be called an imitator or copyist?

Her Power of Assimilation.

Japan, as her history of the past proves, has a wonderful power to harmonize, modify, and assimilate. When she was brought in contact with the higher civilization of China, during the Tang dynasty, she observed and studied



MR. MASUJI MIYAKAWA.

from Chamberlain and Aston, especially those authors having spent half their lives in Japan, and making a study of Japanese civilization their life work, and yet this is what Mr. Chamberlain says in his work:

"The current impression that the Japanese are a nation of imitators is in the main correct. As they copy us today, so did they copy the Chinese and Korean a millennium and a half ago. Religion, philosophy, laws, administration, all arts but the very simplest, all science, or at least what then went by that name—everything was imported from the neighboring continent, so much so, that we are accustomed to the term, 'Old Japan.' Scarcely one trait in a hundred is really and properly Japanese. Not only are their silk and lacquer not theirs by right of invention, nor painting, nor porcelain."

Japan Not an Imitator.

But does Japan really deserve to be called an imitator? If we compare Japanese and Chinese religion, laws, administration, painting, and so on, we will find a much greater difference existing than that which exists between those of any other two nations. I can see no reason for calling Japan an "imitator" simply because she has borrowed some idea for primitive civilization from foreign nations. If such hypotheses were established there would not be a country in the world that could not be justly called an imitator, and each succeeding century would be peopled by imitators of their ancestors.

The great discoveries and inventions in the world of science have not been the result of any one man, nor the exclusive product of any one nation, but are the accumulations of the researches of many men of rare originality, and of many different nationalities. So all the modern equipment of civilization are the common property of the civilized world, and any eligible nation has a right to appropriate them for its own use.

Thus France, England, Germany,

all the details of Chinese civilization and assimilated them.

Since Japan has commenced to study Occidental civilization she has assimilated and developed it so as to meet the needs of her people, just as she did in her early contact with China. One has but to study the formation and equipment of the Japanese army and navy to understand the power of modification and adaptability possessed by the Japanese. There are many civilized nations who owe their lives to the Murata rifle, the Arisaka cannon, and the Shimono gun cotton and gun powder, that proved the medium for their rescue from the bloody hand of the Boxers. Can they at least not bleed the originality of the Japanese?

When Mr. Aston wrote on the ethics of the Yedo period, to enforce a statement he made, he assumed to quote historical fact as follows:

"If a Samurai had occasion to remonstrate with his lord for some act of his government, he frequently emphasized his appeal by suicide. The case of the forty-seven Ronins who slew themselves in a body at the grave of their master after having executed a bloody revenge on his enemy, is a well-known fact."

"History" and Facts.

His relation of events that are familiar to every schoolboy in Japan is so utterly and entirely away from the truth that it sounds to a Japanese as silly and ridiculous as it would be to an American, should a foreigner, who had been studying in America for over thirty years, publish a statement that "Abraham Lincoln committed suicide in the White House."

Lord Curzon, one of the great English statesmen, in "Problem of the Far East," attributed the cause of the China-Japan war as follows:

"In one sense it was true that the war was inevitable. It was a historical corollary of the event of 1892-98. Japan had never forgiven the humiliation which

she then sustained at the hands of China, upon Korean soil, and for three centuries revenge had been a fixed idea in the bosom of Japanese patriots as it has been for the last quarter of a century in a not dissimilar case in Europe."

Lord Curzon's False Ideas.

How did Lord Curzon become impressed with such an idea? The Japanese invasion of Korea in 1892-98 is remembered as one of the greatest achievements ever accomplished by Japan in her long history, and is as dear to all her school children as the war of 1776 to the American, Franco-German war to the German, or Waterloo and Trafalgar to the English. It is as though some one should say that the glorious War of Independence was a great humiliation to the United States.

Japan has been grossly misrepresented to outsiders by those who assumed to be studying on the inside. Mr. Pierre Beaulieu, in his book, "The Awakening of the East," describes very well the sentiment toward Japan which prevailed in Europe before and after the China-Japan war.

Indeed, who could be expected to believe that the home of the Geisha and of all sorts of dwarf trees and sea gardens could possibly acclimate the shoddy industry, the strict militarism, and the matter of fact judicial system of our civilization. As well express such a transformation in a world of butterflies as in the empire of the Mikado. One eminent writer declared that the "Japan of today is but a bad imitation, and no other says, 'I find Japan a sort of anæmic dwarf, I know that she is of antediluvian antiquity, but for all that I cannot help thinking this little old mummy, bedecked herself in the trappings of Western civilization, supremely ridiculous.'"

Proved Her Rank Among Nations.

These were the opinions held not only by the casual visitors to Japan, but also by those who had lived for years in the country. When Europe beheld the triumphant achievements of the Japanese army, she had to confess that Japan was not quite the butterfly she had imagined, and began to study with greater attention the remarkable work which had been accomplished in that country. The real progress of Japan having been unknown for so many years, it was a great surprise when she stepped upon the stage of the world in 1893-94 and showed her national power.

This fact was well illustrated by an impartial statement made by Surgeon Col. W. Taylor, British military attaché during the China-Japan war:

Surprised the World.

"It was in no sense an exaggeration to say that the progress made by Japan in recent years, and more especially in the organization of her army and navy, was unknown to Western nations up to the date when the late war with China broke out. That she possessed a military service of a certain strength and made up of different branches considered necessary parts of a modern army was doubtless known to the intelligence department of the European nations. Not one of these had the slightest idea of the high state of efficiency to which the military organizations had been brought, nor of the splendid discipline, hardihood, and bravery of the soldiers of which the Japanese army was composed."

"Nor was it appreciated that Japan had physicians and surgeons of the highest standing, some of whom were pioneers in bacteriological and other branches of scientific research. The effect of their organization was such that there was no nation in the world—not even Germany—to whom Japan could not teach many lessons, an perfect and complete was her system of medical service."

Commands World's Respect.

It is an undeniable fact that since the China-Japan war, Japan has been more favorably regarded by the outside world in general.

Many books have been written on the subject, and as a nation she has commanded admiration and respect where before the war her name was a subject of pity and ridicule. Yet, on the whole, those who have written their observations of Japan have treated the subject very superficially, and the author is yet to come who will take his observation from the standpoint of a scholar.

Mr. Berosford, the originator of the "open door policy of China" visited Japan in 1899 and stayed one week and six days. During his stay he visited the naval and mercantile docks, the arsenals, prisons, schools and factories. He then wrote a book filled with such complimentary phrases as "No country turns out better work," "This is a most remarkable production in the world," "Are as sweet and clean as possible," "Nothing could be more perfect than the system of teaching and training in Japan," etc.

Mr. Berosford is one of the most notable men in the British empire, and all Englishmen regard him with pride and admiration. Then how can he thus

over-praise a foreign country where he has lived for only two weeks—a country that has a population of nearly 50,000,000 and a history extending over 2,500 years.

Ask Simple Justice.

Japanese are not the dreamy race that Sir Edwin Arnold was so proud of writing about. They have sense enough to know where compliments are too highly colored. They do not ask for flattery, but desire simple justice done to them and their country.

Ninety-nine out of one hundred authors of books on Japan are foreigners, and public readers are yet too inexperienced to perceive very severe critics. Twenty-two hundred years ago, Mencius, the famous Chinese philosopher, said, "It would be better to be without books on history than to give entire credit to them." I often recall this saying whenever a new work on Japan claims upon the literary world.

POWER TO COMMIT.

Board of Children's Guardians Takes Issue With Corporation Counsel.

It is possible that the officers of the Board of Children's Guardians may bring action to obtain a legal decision as to their power to commit wards to the reform schools. They are inclined to take issue with the opinion of the Corporation Counsel, Mr. A. B. Duvall, who rendered the opinion that they were without the necessary authority.

Mr. Duvall asserts that the law makes a distinction between the placing of children in the keeping of the board and of committing them to the reform schools. He further states that if it is expedient to commit a ward of the board to a reform school it is necessary for the board to take the matter to the court that committed the child to their keeping and obtain the order of the court to recommit.

On the other hand the agents of the Board of Children's Guardians assert that it was the purpose of the framers of the laws to place all minors within their keeping and to provide for their supervision by the board.

MISTOOK HIS MAN.

Italian to Pay \$20 for Chasing Man With Butcher Knife.

Frank Mrgoe, an Italian who keeps a fruit stand at the corner of Fourteenth and I Streets, paid a fine of \$20 imposed in the Police Court yesterday, on a charge of assault.

Mrgoe did not deny chasing Kenneth J. Bowers from a Fourteenth Street bar room, but said he did so with a stick and not a butcher knife, and under the impression that Bowers was the man who threw a billet of wood at him.

ON THE CHESAPEAKE & OHIO RY.

IN THE HIGH ALTITUDES OF THE Blue Ridge and Alleghenies

With their fine Spring, Summer and Fall Climate are situated the

VIRGINIA HOT SPRINGS, WARM SULPHUR SPRINGS, WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, THE OLD SWEET SPRINGS, ROCKBRIDGE ALUM SPRINGS.

Sweet Chalybeate Springs, Red Sulphur Springs, Salt Sulphur Springs, Cold Sulphur Springs, Millboro and Millboro Springs, Nixford Hall, The Allegheny, at Goshen; Gladys Inn, at Clinton Forge, Va.; Intervent, at Covington, Va.; Brandon, at Basie, Va.; Natural Bridge, many other resorts, and

THE HOMES FOR SUMMER BOARDERS.

All of these beautiful summer resorts, with magnificent mountain surroundings.

For Summer Homes Folder, giving full particulars, apply at C. & O. Ticket Office, or address H. W. FULLER, Gen'l Pass. Agent, Washington, D. C. Jy 13, 1902, 16, 15, 20.

COLORADO GREAT ROCK ISLAND ROUTE

The way to get the best accommodations is via the

WHY? It is the only direct line to Colorado Springs and Manitou. It is the popular route to Denver. It has the best Dining Car Service. It has the finest equipment and most satisfactory schedule and in the

Rocky Mountain Limited

offers the best train, only one night, Chicago to Colorado.

It leaves Chicago daily at 5.45 p. m., and arrives at Denver 8.45 p. m., Colorado Springs (Manitou) 8.20 p. m.

Another inducement to use the Rocky Island will be the round trip rates of \$25 Chicago to Colorado and \$15 Missouri River points to Colorado effective this summer by that line. Ask for details and free books.

"Under the Turquoise Sky" gives the most fascinating description of Colorado. "Camping in Colorado" has full details for campers.

F. L. MILLER, P. A. M. D. 111 So. 5th Street, PHILADELPHIA.

HOTELS.

ATLANTIC CITY.

THE ELSMERE, 25 North Georgia Ave., Atlantic City, N. J. Terms reasonable. KATE KLOPPER.

ROTEL ALDINE, Pacific Avenue between 10th and 11th. New Management. L. TURNBULL. Booklet, jett-out.

OCEAN CITY.

OPENS JUNE 23, 1902. ATLANTIC HOTEL

OCEAN CITY, MD. Thoroughly renovated, newly furnished rooms. Rooms single and en suite, with bath. Finest bathing beach on the Atlantic Coast. Golf and tennis.

For rates and particulars, address CHAS. WEBER, of J. J. Ocean City, Md.

Teeth Extracted painlessly. Gold Crowns, Fillings, and Sets of Teeth at moderate prices. Electric fans. DR. PATTON'S UNION DENTAL PARLORS, 210 F St. N. W., Second Floor.

LANSBURGH & BRO.

Store Closes Evenings at 5 o'Clock. Saturdays Excepted

The Opportunity

That we present to the women of Washington to add to the summer wardrobe will save a large part of the expected cost.

Summer Underwear.

We offer this lot of underwear that you may obtain the cool, comfortable kind—at a remarkably low price.

Women's Swiss Ribbed Vests—low neck—sleeveless—extra sizes included. A 12c value for 12½c

Women's Lace Trimmed Umbrella Pants—extra sizes included. A 25c value for 25c

Colored Lawn Costumes.

Colored Lawn Costumes. A very popular style this season. We sold these at \$3.57 and \$10.55. Now \$6.93

Linen Lawn Costumes.

Linen Lawn Costumes. Impressions of wide linen lace. We sold these at \$15.00. Now \$8.95

India Silk Costumes.

India Silk Costumes: colors blue and white, black and white. This is a magnificent value. We sold these at \$22.50. Now \$14.75

Corsets.

Corsets that are made well, wear well, and are ideal for the sultry season.

Thompson's Tape Girdle, lined with Coralline. Special \$7.50

Warner's Rust-proof Corsets, made of Rustless and net, low bust and short hip. Special \$7.50

Muslin Underwear.

Muslin Underwear at crowd-drawing prices. It's the style that attracts your attention—the quality that holds your interest—the price that sells the garment.

Special for Monday Only.

Special for Monday only—Women's short plain French Cambric Corset Covers, round neck, all seems felled. For one day only

Women's short and long French Corset Covers, made of fine cambric, some trimmed with four rows of Trench lace, others with val lace. Only \$2.10

Women's long Skirts, made of good muslin, with deep cambric hemstitched umbrellas ruffle. Special only \$4.40

Decide wisely and come to this sale.

LANSBURGH & BRO.

420 to 426 Seventh Street.

417 to 425 Eighth Street.

Very Old Stock Blackberry Brandy.

We have some rare old Blackberry Brandy—at least 15 years old. It was left from the old Seligson stock. This is highly recommended by leading physicians for bowel and other summer complaints. Our stock is a superior medicinal brandy.

\$1 a Full Pint.

Fine old California Claret.

5 Bottles, \$1.00.

Eldorado Wine Co.,

12th and Pa. Ave.

PHONE MAIN 2721.

SAMUEL D. MINSTER,

Successor to H. A. Seligson.

The Best Summer Tonic!

ELIXIR "BABEK."

For Loss of Appetite, Languor, Malaria and Run Down Condition.

AT ALL DRUGGISTS!

To Cure Any Kind of HEADACHE and INDIGESTION in fifteen minutes take

Bromo Pepsin.

Absolutely harmless. 10c, 25c, and 50c. my 11-11

"We Keep You Dry."

When we paint your roof with our Elastic Metallic Roof Paint.

It is painted right, and all leaks are stopped. Our paint is guaranteed, and so is our work. Estimate free.

THE CHEMICAL PAINT MFG. CO. T. J. DONOVAN, Manager.

Mattings Laid Free

CREDIT

Buys Summer Furniture at Lowest Cash Prices.

We guarantee the durability of every article we sell—no matter how small the price. Mattings, Refrigerators, Ice Chests, Denslers, Vapers, and Stove-fans. Cookers; also Porch Benches, Lawn Seats, Baby Carriages, and Go-Carts at rock-bottom prices, and on easy weekly or monthly payments.

Peter Grogan.

817 819-823 825 10 St. Between 11 and 12 St.

Special Summer Clearance Sale of Popular Sheet Music, 10c Per Copy.

E. F. DROOP & SONS

\$25 Penna. Ave.

GAS RANGE SUMMER COOLING

is reduced to the least possible cost and at the same time the greatest satisfaction is obtained from using a Gas Range. We're selling the best makes.

Gas Appliance Exchange, 1424 New York Ave.

"VIRGINIA CLARETS"

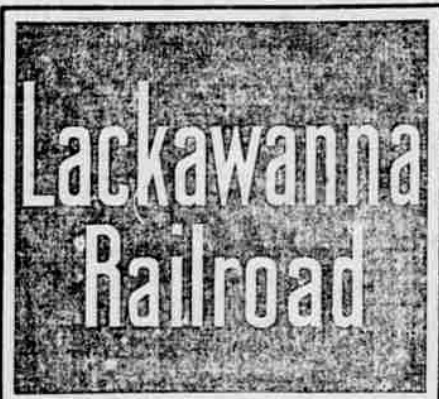
\$1.75 doz; 27c qt—\$2.25 doz; 55c qt. 1409 N. W. CORNER 11th ST. CHRIS XANDER, PHONE 32-363.

THARP'S GERKELEY RYE

"F"

POCONO MOUNTAINS, DELAWARE WATER GAP.

Delightful resorts in the mountains of Pennsylvania and throughout the Delaware Valley reached by fast express trains over the



In connection with the Pennsylvania Railroad. Special mountain train leaves Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, at 9:06 a.m. daily, except Sunday. Saturday special at 1:08 p.m.

For information about hotels and boarding houses write

T. W. LEE, General Passenger Agent

Lackawanna Railroad, New York City, inclosing 5c in postage stamps for summer book.